AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 22, and continuing to page 2, line 2, i.e., the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2, as follows:

Allocation of speech processing resources at a node for every time slot can undesirably consume processor resources, and exact a disproportionate amount of processor overhead relative to the small amount of data that is included in a speech time slot. This is especially true if the networks which interface with the node are packet based.

Please amend captioned on page 4, line 8, as follows:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9, and continuing to page 4, line 21, i.e., the first paragraph of the Brief Summary, as follows:

A media stream system (140) processes plural media streams (148), e.g., speech streams or speech channels. The system comprises plural processors (146), each of which execute one of plural types of media stream processing functions (147). A switch function (144) routes packets of the plural media streams to a sequence of the plural processors whereby the plural types of media stream processing functions are sequentially performed relative to the packets. The types of media stream processing functions can include functions such as the following: speech coding; speech decoding; echo cancellation; tone sender; tone receiver; DTMF sender; DTMF receiver; conference call device (CCD); announcement machine; FAX modem; voice recogition; and U-lag/A-lag conversion; an interfacing functionality to an external network (such as TDM, ATM,

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IP and Frame Relay networks); video codec (which, e.g., processes video and/or video clips), text processing (which converts text to voice or text to video), a modem for either circuit switched or packet switched data.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 3, and continuing to page 9, line 11, as follows:

As shown in Fig. 5, in one example, non-limiting embodiment of the present invention the packet size for a packet of media stream information is chosen to be 160 octets. In view of its size, each packet of media stream information is also referred to as a "batch". Fig. 5 further shows nine such packets 160_1 through 160_9 being included in a packet repetition interval 170. Preferably the packet repetition interval is 20 milliseconds. Thus, consecutive packets of a same media stream (e.g., media stream 148_1) are separated by the packet repetition interval 170 (e.g., the packet 160_1 shown in Fig. 5 is followed 20 milliseconds by another packet of the same media stream). The packet size and packet repetition interval 170 of the Fig. 5 embodiment is merely one example, it being recognized that other packet sizes and other lengths for the packet repetition interval 170 can be utilized in other embodiments.